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Applicant(s):	Andreas Myka et al.	
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Title:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING A PRODUCT PRICE OR QUOTATION REQUEST AND PLACING A PRODUCT ORDER VIA A COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM	

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APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR § 41.37

This Appeal Brief is filed pursuant to the "Notice of Appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences" filed April 25, 2007 and the "Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review" mailed May 4, 2007.

1.   ***Real Party in Interest.***

The real party in interest in this appeal is Nokia Corporation, the assignee of the above-referenced patent application.

2.   ***Related Appeals and Interferences.***

There are no related appeals and/or interferences involving this application or its subject matter.

3.   **Status of Claims.**

The present appeal involves Claims 1-34, 36-53, 55, and 57-68, which are presently under a final rejection as set forth by the final Official Action mailed on January 12, 2007 ("the Official Action") and maintained in the Advisory Action mailed March 16, 2007 ("the Advisory Action"). Claims 35, 54, and 56 have been previously canceled. A pre-appeal request was submitted on April 25, 2007, but the decision of the panel of Examiners found that Claims 1-34, 36-53, 55, and 57-68 stand rejected because one or more issues are ripe for appeal. The claims at issue are set forth in the attached Claims Appendix.

4.   **Status of Amendments.**

An Amendment was filed on March 8, 2007, in response to the Official Action. In the Amendment, several typographical errors were corrected, and arguments were presented to overcome the existing claim rejections. The Amendment was entered, and in the Advisory Action, the arguments provided in the Amendment were summarily rejected, with the Examiner simply referencing his positions in the Official Action.

5.   **Summary of Claimed Subject Matter.**

Embodiments of the invention are directed to wirelessly bonding a master device to a plurality of slave devices, collecting a plurality of media files and associated metadata from the slave devices, and returning the collection of media files and metadata to the slave devices. More particularly, in one embodiment, the master device monitors an area for other devices and receives presence information from a potential slave device. If the presence information is from a new device (a device that has yet to be bonded to the master device), the master device sends the potential slave device a request to bond with the device along with media file transfer parameters. The media file transfer parameters include instructions to the slave device as to what metadata should be included with a media file when the slave device transmits the media file to the master device. The slave device then responds to the bonding request with an acceptance

signal along with sharing information. When the slave device captures an image or otherwise has a media file to share, the slave device sends the media file to the master device with metadata in accordance with the media file transfer parameters. The master device combines the media files and the metadata from the various slave devices using a media diary application and transmits the collection of media files and metadata back to the slave devices in accordance with the sharing information. In some embodiments, the combining and correlating of the media files and metadata is conducted by an auxiliary device in communication with the master device.

Embodiments of the media file sharing system are typically relevant to media events that warrant media capture. For example, a media event such as a birthday celebration, a wedding, an award ceremony or the like typically warrants media capture and the attendees at the event typically have a desire to possess the media files associated with the event. Rather than have the attendees capture the event in some digital form and then share files either manually or electronically at some point in time well after the event, embodiments of the present invention provide for the media files to be immediately conveyed, from the slave devices to a master device, upon creation. The master device or an auxiliary device can then optionally assemble the files into an event collection and communicate the event collection back to the slave devices at or near the conclusion of the event. *See, e.g.,* ¶ 0038 of the present application.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a digital device, for example, the master device **20** of Fig. 2. *See, e.g.,* ¶ 0042 and Fig. 2 of the present application. Examples of potential digital devices include a personal digital assistant, a cellular telephone, a laptop computer, a desktop computer, a digital camera, etc. *See, e.g.,* ¶ 0039 of the present application. The digital device includes a data processor (**22** of Fig. 2), as well as a communication transceiver (**24** of Fig. 2) and a memory unit (**26** of Fig. 2) that are in respective communication with the data processor. *See* ¶ 0042 and Fig. 2 of the present application. The communication transceiver is capable of monitoring an environment and receiving communications from one or more devices in the environment, for example, slave devices (**40A-40E** of Fig. 1) such as digital cameras, digital camcorders, laptop computers, sensors, presence devices, etc. *See, e.g.,* ¶ 0040 and Fig. 1 of the present application. The digital device also includes a computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having computer-readable program instructions stored therein. The

storage medium will typically be a memory device, such as flash ROM memory, HDD or the like, and the programming instructions may be written in a standard computer programming language, such as C++, Java or the like. *See, e.g.,* ¶ 0135 of the present application.

The computer-readable program instructions include a bonding application code that is executed by the data processor for bonding the digital device to one or more devices in the environment. *See, e.g.,* ¶ 0042 of the present application. Additionally, the bonding application records sharing information received from the one or more bonded devices and information related to the users of the one or more bonded devices, the sharing information providing information about how to share collected media files with the bonded device. *Id.* The memory unit is configured to store the information recorded by the bonding application as bonded device metadata information. *Id.* The computer-readable program instructions also include a media transfer application code that is executed by the data processor for providing media file transfer parameters. *See, e.g.,* ¶¶ 0042 and 0043 of the present application. The media file transfer parameters include instructions to communicate captured media files with a specified set of metadata included in the communication. *Id.* Examples of media file transfer parameters are provided in paragraphs 0052-0075 of the present application.

Independent Claim 14 is directed to a method for bonding devices and communicating media file transfer parameters between the devices. The method includes monitoring, by a master device, an area of interest for the presence of potential bondable devices and receiving, at the master device, a presence signal from a potential bondable device. *See, e.g.,* ¶ 0049 of the present application. The bond capability of the potential bondable device is determined and the potential bondable device is approved as a bonded device. *See, e.g.,* ¶¶ 0050 and 0077 of the present application. Finally, the method further includes communicating media file transfer parameters from the master device to the bonded device. *See, e.g.,* ¶¶ 0051 and 0075 of the present application. Overall, Figures 7A, 7B, and 7C illustrate embodiments of the claimed invention.

Independent Claim 24 is directed to a method for communicating media files and associated media file metadata from a bonded device to a master device. The method includes bonding one or more slave devices to a master device (*e.g.*, as described in conjunction with

Figs. 7A-7C) according to predetermined media file transfer parameters communicated to the slave device from the master device (*see, e.g.,* ¶ 0051 of the present application). A plurality of media files from the bonded devices are communicated to the master device (*e.g.,* as shown in Figs. 4 and 5), the plurality of media files having metadata information as defined by the predetermined media file transfer parameters.

Independent Claim 31 is directed to a method for communicating media files and associated media file metadata from a master device to a bonded device. The method includes bonding one or more remote devices to a master device (*e.g.,* as described in conjunction with Figs. 7A-7C) according to predetermined media file transfer parameters (*see, e.g.,* ¶ 0051 of the present application). Bonded device metadata information is recorded at the master device (*see, e.g.,* ¶ 0042 of the present application), and a media file is received at the master device from one or more of the bonded remote devices, the media file having associated media file metadata information (*see, e.g.,* ¶ 0079 of the present application). The method further includes communicating the media file, the media file metadata, and the bonded device metadata information from the master device to one or more of the bonded devices or to another remote device. *See, e.g.,* ¶¶ 0081, 0082, and 0088 and Figs. 4 and 5 of the present application.

Independent Claim 34 is directed to a system for communicating media files and assembling a collection of associated media files. The system includes a master device (¶ 0042) that monitors an environment for slave devices. The master device includes a processor that executes a bonding application code to bond the master device to one or more slave devices (¶ 0042), a memory device (¶ 0135) in communication with the processor that stores metadata information related to one or more slave devices and the users of the one or more slave devices, and a computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium and computer-readable program instructions stored therein, the computer-readable program instructions comprising a media transfer application code that provides media file transfer parameters that include instructions for creation of media file metadata information. *See, e.g.,* ¶¶ 0042 and 0043 of the present application.

The system also includes one or more slave devices (¶ 0040) that are bonded to the master device by successful execution of the bonding application code (for example, as in Figs.

7A-7C). The slave devices capture and communicate media files (*See* ¶¶ 0079, 0087, and 0096) to one or more devices that include a processor and a computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium and computer-readable program instructions stored therein with the computer-readable program instructions comprising a media file collection application code for communicating the collection of media files to one or more devices. *See, e.g.,* ¶ 0044 of the present application. Generally, embodiments of the system claimed in Claim 34 are illustrated in Figs. 1 and 4-6.

Independent Claim 52 is directed to a system for communicating media files and assembling a collection of media files. The system includes a master device that provides bonding capability (¶ 0042), a media file collection device (¶ 0044) in communication with the master device, and one or more slave devices (¶ 0040) that bond with the master device and communicate with the master device during a bond period. *See, e.g.,* ¶¶ 0086 and 0095 and Figs. 5 and 6 of the present application. The slave devices capture media files during the bond period and communicate the captured media files and associated media file metadata to the media file collection device. *See, e.g.,* ¶¶ 0087 and 0096 of the present application. The media file collection device comprises a computer readable storage medium having computer-readable program instructions embodied in the medium, the computer–readable program instructions include instructions for combining a plurality of media files communicated from the one or more slave devices to form a collection of media files associated with the bond period, and instructions for communicating at least a portion of the combined plurality of media files to a device based on sharing information parameters. *See, e.g.,* ¶¶ 0089, 0090, 0098, and 0099 of the present application.

6.   ***Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal.***

Claims 14-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 14-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0021591 to Grosvenor et al. ("Grosvenor"). Claims 1-13, 34, 36-53, 55, and 57-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious

over Grosvenor in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0203797 to Burr ("Burr").

7.   ***Argument.***

As explained below, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the present application are directed to statutory subject matter and are patentably distinct from Grosvenor and Burr, taken individually or in combination. In view of the remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully request reversal of the rejections of the finally rejected pending claims of the present application.

A.   ***Claims 14-33 are directed to statutory subject matter.***

The Official Action rejected Claims 14-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Official Action submitted that the claims must recite a useful, concrete, and tangible result. In rejecting Claims 14-33, the Official Action submitted that the claims are useful and concrete, but fail to produce a tangible result because no result is stored to non-volatile media or made tangible by, for example, returning a result to the user. *See* the Official Action, p. 3.

As provided by the MPEP, § 2106(IV)(C)(2)(2)(b),

> "The tangible requirement does not necessarily mean that a claim must
> either be tied to a particular machine or apparatus or must operate to
> change articles or materials to a different state or thing. However, the
> tangible requirement does require that the claim must recite more than a
> 35 U.S.C. 101 judicial exception, in that the process claim must set forth a
> practical application of that judicial exception to produce a real-world
> result."

Applicants submit that independent Claims 14 and 24 produce a tangible result, in accordance with the above-quoted portion of the MPEP, by communicating information between the master device and the bonded device. Specifically, the method of independent Claim 14 produces a tangible result since independent Claim 14 recites communicating media file transfer parameters from a master device to a bonded device. The method of independent Claim 24 produces a tangible result since independent Claim 24 recites communicating a plurality of media files from

a bonded device to a master device. Therefore, Claims 14 and 24, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, each recite a result that is tangible as evidenced, fo4r example, by the result produced by Claims 14 and 24 being at least as tangible as the example from the Official Action of returning a result to a user.

   B.   ***Claims 14-23 are patentably distinct from the Grosvenor reference.***

   The Official Action rejected independent Claim 14, and the claims that depend therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Grosvenor reference. As discussed above, Claim 14 is directed to a method for bonding devices and communicating media file transfer parameters between the devices. Claim 14 recites a master device monitoring an area of interest for the presence of potential bondable devices and receiving a presence signal from a potential bondable device; determining bond capability of the potential bondable device; approving the potential bondable device as a bonded device; and communicating media file transfer parameters from the master device to the bonded device.

   The Official Action cites paragraphs 0060 and 0067 of Grosvenor as disclosing a master device monitoring an area of interest for the presence of potential bondable devices and receiving a presence signal from a potential bondable device. *See* the Official Action, p. 26. Paragraphs 0060 and 0067 of Grosvenor describe that a plurality of synchronized cameras can send their digital pictures to a common repository. Grosvenor further describes that a web address can be provided to users of the cameras so that the users can access the repository on the web and view the collection of pictures. *See* Grosvenor, ¶¶ 0059, 0060, and 0067.

   When rejecting independent Claim 14, the Official Action appears to equate the repository described in Grosvenor to the master device of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Official Action submits that the repository performs the claimed monitoring step when the cameras synchronize with the repository and that the repository performs the claimed receiving step when the repository receives photographs from the cameras. *See* the Official Action, p. 26. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Official Action incorrectly equates the repository of paragraphs 0060 and 0067 to the master device of Claim 14. Specifically, <u>Claim 14 recites that media file transfer parameters are transferred from the master device to the bonded</u>

<u>devices</u>. Alternatively, paragraphs 0060 and 0067 of Grosvenor describe transferring media file transfer parameters to the bonded device from someplace other than the repository. Thus, the repository described in paragraphs 0060 and 0067 of Grosvenor is not equivalent to the claimed master device. Further, even in an embodiment such as that described in paragraph 0073 of Grosvenor in which the cameras themselves collectively form a fileserver and thereby enable a repository, Grosvenor does not describe the specifics of this collective formation of the repository by the cameras, in paragraph 0073 or elsewhere, and does not teach or suggest that the repository formation and/or functioning includes or could include the steps of: monitoring, at a first camera, an area of interest for the presence of potential bondable cameras; receiving, at the first camera, a presence signal from a potential bondable camera; determining bond capability of the potential bondable camera; approving the potential bondable camera as a bonded camera; and communicating media file transfer parameters from the first camera to the bonded camera, as required by independent Claim 14. Therefore, under no reasonable interpretation does Grosvenor teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent Claim 14.

The Official Action also argues that Claim 14 is anticipated by Grosvenor describing, at paragraph 0062, that compatible cameras can be synchronized at venues such as football stadiums or theme parks. *See* the Official Action, pp. 26 and 27. Although the Grosvenor reference discloses synchronizing compatible cameras, Grosvenor does not describe that the cameras are synchronized by a process including the steps of: monitoring, at a first camera, an area of interest for the presence of potential bondable cameras; receiving, at the first camera, a presence signal from a potential bondable camera; determining bond capability of the potential bondable camera; approving the potential bondable camera as a bonded camera; and communicating media file transfer parameters from the first camera to the bonded camera, as required by independent Claim 14. Therefore, Grosvenor also does not teach or suggest at least the foregoing recitations of independent Claim 14.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Grosvenor does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of independent Claim 14, and that the rejection of Claim 14, as well as each of the rejections of Claims 15-23 that depend therefrom, is therefore traversed.

      C.   ***Claims 1-13, 34, 36-53, 55, and 57-68 are patentably distinct from the Grosvenor and the Burr references, viewed alone or in combination.***

The Official Action rejected Claims 1-13, 34, 36-53, 55, and 57-68 as being obvious over Grosvenor in view of Burr. Burr is directed to a mobile ad-hoc network of wireless devices in which one wireless device can share its resources (*e.g.*, memory, processing ability, or communication abilities) with other wireless devices on the network. For example, a first wireless device may be able to communicate with a second wireless device even if the second device is out of the wireless range of the first device by communicating through a third wireless device that is within the range of both the first and the second devices. *See, e.g.,* ¶ 0030 of Burr.

With regard to the rejection of independent Claim 1, the Official Action admits that Grosvenor does not describe a digital device that receives sharing information from a bonded device, the sharing information providing information about how to share collected media files with the bonded device, as recited by independent Claim 1. *See* the Official Action, p. 8. However, the Official Action submits that the Burr reference describes this feature of Claim 1. *Id.* In particular, the Official Action cites paragraph 0034 of Burr where it states that a device in a sub-network may provide specialized services to other devices in the sub-network by, for example, sharing its storage capacity, processing capacity, or input/output capacity. Burr, however, is merely describing that a first device may be able to use the memory, the processor, or the communication interface of another device on the network. The referenced portion of Burr and, indeed, the entirety of Burr, in no way describes <u>a digital device receiving sharing information from a bonded device, the sharing information providing information about how to share collected media files with the bonded device</u>, as recited by independent Claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of independent Claim 1, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, is traversed.

With regard to the rejection of independent Claim 24, the Official Action admits that Grosvenor does not disclose bonding one or more slave devices to a master device according to predetermined media file transfer parameters communicated to the slave device from the master device, as recited by Claim 24. *See* the Official Action, p. 12. The Official Action, however,

again cites paragraph 0034 of Burr as disclosing this feature of Claim 24. *Id*. As described above, paragraph 0034 merely discloses that a first device may be able to use the memory, the processor, or the communication interface of another device on the network. In other words, neither paragraph 0034 nor any other portion of Burr has anything to do with bonding one or more slave devices to a master device according to predetermined media file transfer parameters, where the predetermined media file transfer parameters were communicated to the slave device from the master device, as recited by Claim 24. Therefore, the rejection of independent Claim 24, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, is traversed.

With regard to the rejection of independent Claims 31 and 34, the Official Action admits that Grosvenor does not describe that a master device receives and compiles the media files and/or the associated metadata and then sends the compilation to the slave devices or to other non-bonded devices, as required by Claims 31 and 34 of the present application. *See* the Official Action, pp. 14, 16, and 17. In this regard, the Official Action cites paragraphs 0029 and 0032 of Burr as disclosing these features of Claims 31 and 34. *See* the Official Action, pp. 14, 15, and 18. The cited sections of Burr, however, merely describe the structure of the mobile ad-hoc network and the structure of the device. These paragraphs and, indeed, all of Burr in no way describe a master device receiving and compiling media files and/or associated metadata and then sending the compilation to bonded slave devices or to other non-bonded devices, as recited by Claims 31 and 34. Therefore, the rejection of independent Claims 31 and 34, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, is traversed.

With regard to the rejection of independent Claim 52, the Official Action admits that Grosvenor does not describe compiling a plurality of media files at a device and communicating the compilation of media files to another device based on sharing information parameters, as recited by Claim 52. *See* the Official Action, p. 22. The Official Action, however, cites paragraphs 0029 and 0032 of Burr as disclosing this feature of Claim 52. *Id*. As described above, the cited sections of Burr merely describe the structure of the mobile ad-hoc network and the structure of the device. Neither these sections nor any other portion of the Burr reference disclose compiling a plurality of media files at a device and communicating the compilation of media files to another device based on sharing information parameters, as recited by Claim 52.

Therefore, the rejection of Claim 52, and also each rejection of Claims 53, 55, and 57-67 depending therefrom, is traversed.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, it is submitted that the rejection of Claims 1-34, 36-53, 55, and 57-68 is erroneous and reversal of the rejection is respectfully requested. A Claims Appendix containing a copy of claims involved in the appeal, an Evidence Appendix, and a Related Proceedings Appendix are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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Claims Appendix

1.   A digital device, the digital device comprising:

a data processor;

a communication transceiver in communication with the data processor that is capable of monitoring an environment and receiving communications from one or more devices in the environment;

a computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium and computer-readable program instructions stored in the computer-readable medium and comprising:

a bonding application code that is executed by the data processor for bonding the digital device to one or more devices in the environment and recording sharing information received from the one or more bonded devices and information related to the users of the one or more bonded devices, the sharing information providing information about how to share collected media files with the bonded device;

a media transfer application code that is executed by the data processor for providing media file transfer parameters, the parameters including instructions to communicate captured media files with a specified set of metadata included in the communication; and

a memory unit that is in communication with the data processor and configured to stores the information recorded by the bonding application as bonded device metadata information.

2.   The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication transceiver is configured to receive from the one or more bonded devices media files having associated media file metadata information.

3.   The device of Claim 2, further comprising a display and the computer-readable program instructions further comprising a grouping application code, wherein the grouping

application code is executed by the processor and provides for display of a group mode menu structure that allows a device user to define a group event.

4.   The device of Claim 3, wherein the grouping application code further provides for creation of a group file related to the group event, the group file for providing storage for media files associated with the event.

5.   The device of Claim 4, wherein the grouping application code further provides for display of a group mode menu structure that allows a device user to communicate stored media files and media file metadata information to one or more bonded devices.

6.   The device of Claim 4, wherein the grouping application code further provides for display of a group mode menu structure that allows a device user to select an automatic communication mode that automatically communicates, upon receipt, media files and media file metadata information to one or more bonded devices in accordance with the sharing information.

7.   The device of Claim 2, wherein the computer-readable program instructions further comprise a metadata correlation application code executed by the data processor for combining the received media file metadata information with the bonded device metadata information.

8.   The device of Claim 7, wherein the communication transceiver is configured to communicate the one or more received media files and the combined metadata to one or more remote devices.

9.   The device of Claim 8, wherein the communication transceiver communicates the one or more received media files and the combined metadata to one or more remote devices according to one or more remote device addresses stored as bonded device metadata information.

10.   The device of Claim 1, wherein the media transfer application code further provides for the media file transfer parameters to be communicated to the one or more bonded devices.

11.   The device of Claim 10, wherein the media transfer application code that provides for media file transfer parameters to be communicated to the one or more bonded devices further defines the media file transfer parameters as including instructions for transmitting media files captured at the one or more bonded devices.

12.   The device of Claim 1, wherein the computer-readable program instructions further comprise a media file collection application code executed by the data processor for organizing media files received from the one or more bonded devices according to the media file metadata information.

13.   The device of Claim 1, wherein the communication transceiver is further defined as a short-range communication transceiver.

14.   A method for wireless bonding of devices and communicating media file transfer parameters, the method comprising:

        monitoring, at a master device, an area of interest for the presence of potential bondable devices;

        receiving, at the master device, a presence signal from a potential bondable device;

        determining bond capability of the potential bondable device;

        approving the potential bondable device as a bonded device; and

        communicating, from the master device to the bonded device, media file transfer parameters, including definition of the media file metadata that is to be included with a captured media file.

15.   The method of Claim 14, wherein communicating, from the master device to the bonded device, media file transfer parameters occurs during the bond approval process.

16.   The method of Claim 14, wherein communicating, from the master device to the bonded device, media file transfer parameters occurs after the bond approval process.

17.   The method of Claim 14, wherein communicating, from the master device to the bonded device, media file transfer parameters, further includes one or more destination addresses for communicating captured media files.

18.   The method of Claim 14, wherein communicating, from the master device to the bonded device, media file transfer parameters, further includes one or more destination addresses for communicating captured media files, wherein at least one of the destination addresses is the master device address.

19.   The method of Claim 14, wherein communicating, from the master device to the bonded device, media file transfer parameters, further includes one or more destination addresses for communicating captured media files, wherein at least one of the destination addresses is an intermediary device address.

20.   The method of Claim 14, wherein determining a bond capability of the potential bondable device occurs at the master device.

21.   The method of Claim 14, wherein determining a bond capability of the potential bondable device occurs at the potential bondable device.

22.   The method of Claim 14, wherein approving the potential bondable device for bonding occurs at the master device.

23.   The method of Claim 14, wherein approving the potential bondable device for bonding occurs at the potential bondable device.

24.   A method for communicating media files and associated media file metadata from a bonded device to a master device, the method comprising:

bonding one or more slave devices to a master device according to predetermined media file transfer parameters communicated to the slave device from the master device; and

communicating a plurality of media files from the one or more bonded devices to the master device, the plurality of media files having metadata information as defined by the predetermined media file transfer parameters.

25.   The method of Claim 24, further comprising combining, at the master device, the plurality of media files into a master media file.

26.   The method of Claim 24, further comprising combining, at the master device, the metadata information of the plurality of media files into a master metadata file.

27.   The method of Claim 25, further comprising communicating the master media file to one or more of the slave devices.

28.   The method of Claim 25, further comprising communicating the master media file to one or more non-bonded devices.

29.   The method of Claim 24, further comprising recording, at the master device, metadata information related to the one or more bonded devices.

30.   The method of Claim 29, further comprising correlating, at the master device, the bonded device metadata information with the media file metadata information.

31.   A method for communicating media files and associated media file metadata from a master device to a bonded device, the method comprising:

bonding one or more remote devices to a master device according to predetermined media file transfer parameters;

recording, at the master device, bonded device metadata information;

receiving a media file at the master device from one or more of the bonded remote devices, the media file having associated media file metadata information; and

communicating the media file, the media file metadata and the bonded device metadata information from the master device to one or more of the bonded devices or to another remote device.

32.   The method of Claim 31, further comprising combining, at the master device, the bonded device metadata information and the media file metadata information.

33.   The method of Claim 31, wherein bonding one or more remote devices to a master device according to predetermined media file transfer parameters further defines the predetermined media file transfer parameters as including criteria for bonding a device.

34.   A system for communicating media files and assembling a collection of associated media files, the system comprising:

a master device that monitors an environment for slave devices and includes:

a processor that executes a bonding application code to bond the master device to one or more slave devices,

a memory device in communication with the processor that stores metadata information related to one or more slave devices and the users of the one or more slave devices, and

a computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium and computer-readable program instructions stored therein, the computer-readable program

instructions comprising a media transfer application code that provides media file transfer parameters that include instructions for creation of media file metadata information; and

one or more slave devices that are bonded to the master device by successful execution of the bonding application code, wherein the one or more slave devices capture media files and communicate the captured media files to one or more devices that include a processor and a computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium and computer-readable program instructions stored therein with the computer-readable program instructions comprising a media file collection application code for communicating the collection of media files to one or more devices.

35.   (Canceled)

36.   The system of Claim 34, wherein the one or more devices that include processors that execute a media file collection application code include the master device.

37.   The system of Claim 34, wherein the media file collection application code is further configured for categorizing the media files in relation to the media file metadata information.

38.   The system of Claim 34, wherein the media file collection application code is further configured for assembling the media files in a master media file.

39.   The system of Claim 34, wherein the media file collection application code is further configured for communicating the collection of media files to one or more of the slave devices.

40.   The system of Claim 34, wherein the media file collection application code is further configured for communicating the collection of media files to one or more non-bonded devices.

41.   The system of Claim 34, wherein the media file collection application code is further configured for combining metadata related to the captured media files to form a master metadata file.

42.   The system of Claim 34, wherein the master device communicates file transfer parameters to the one or more slave devices.

43.   The system of Claim 42, wherein the master device communicates file transfer parameters to the one or more slave devices and the file transfer parameters include a device address of a device having a processor that executes a media file collection application code.

44.   The system of Claim 42, wherein the master device communicates file transfer parameters to the one or more slave devices and the file transfer parameters include definition of at least one item of the media file metadata information.

45.   The system of Claim 42, wherein the one or more slave devices capture media files and communicate, according to the file transfer parameters, the captured media files to one or more devices having processors that execute a media file collection application code.

46.   The system of Claim 34, wherein the master device further comprises a media capture device that captures media files having associated media file metadata information.

47.   The system of Claim 46, wherein the master device further comprises a display and wherein the computer-readable program instructions further comprise a grouping application code, the grouping application code is executed by the processor and provides for display of a group mode menu structure that allows a device user to define a group event.

48.   The system of Claim 47, wherein the grouping application code further provides for creation of a group file related to the group event, the group file provides storage for media files associated with the event.

49.   The system of Claim 48, wherein the grouping application code further provides for display of a group mode menu structure that allows a device user to communicate stored media files and media file metadata information to one or more bonded devices.

50.   The system of Claim 49, wherein the grouping application code further provides for display of a group mode menu structure that allows a device user to select an automatic communication mode that automatically communicates, upon capture, media files and media file metadata information to one or more bonded devices.

51.   The system of Claim 34, wherein the one or more slave devices communicate the captured media files to one or more devices by wireless communication chosen from the group consisting of Bluetooth, wireless local area network (WLAN), radio frequency identification (RFID) and wireless telecom network.

52.   A system for communicating media files and assembling a collection of media files, the system comprising:

      a master device that provides bonding capability;

      a media file collection device in communication with the master device; and

      one or more slave devices that bond with the master device and communicate with the master device during a bond period, wherein the slave devices capture media files during the bond period and communicate the captured media files and associated media file metadata to the media file collection device,

      wherein the media file collection device comprises a computer readable storage medium having computer-readable program instructions embodied in the medium, the computer–readable program instructions include instructions for combining a plurality of media

files communicated from the one or more slave devices to form a collection of media files associated with the bond period, and instructions for communicating at least a portion of the combined plurality of media files to a device based on sharing information parameters.

53.   The system of Claim 52, wherein the master device comprises the media file collection device.

54.   (Canceled)

55.   The system of Claim 52, further comprising an intermediary device that comprises the media file collection device.

56.   (Canceled)

57.   The system of Claim 55, wherein the one or more slave devices communicate the captured media files and associated media file metadata to the master device, which in turn communicates the captured media files and associated media file metadata to the media file collection device embodied in the intermediary device.

58.   The system of Claim 52, wherein the computer–readable program instructions further include instructions for correlating the media file metadata.

59.   The system of Claim 52, wherein the computer–readable program instructions further include instructions for correlating the media file metadata and calendar event metadata.

60.   The system of Claim 52, wherein computer–readable program instructions further include instructions for combining the media file metadata to form a master metadata file related to the media files captured during the bond period.

61.   The system of Claim 60, wherein the computer–readable program instructions further includes instructions for adding additional metadata to the master metadata file.

62.   The system of Claim 60, wherein the computer–readable program instructions further include instructions for adding additional metadata to the master metadata file, the additional metadata chosen from the group consisting of bookmark metadata, annotation metadata and comment metadata.

63.   The system of Claim 52, wherein the instructions for communicating at least a portion of the combined plurality of media files to a device based on sharing information parameters include instructions for communicating the collection of media files to one or more of the slave devices.

64.   The system of Claim 52, wherein the instructions for communicating at least a portion of the combined plurality of media files to a device based on sharing information parameters include instructions for communicating the collection of media files to one or more non-bonded devices.

65.   The system of Claim 52, wherein the one or more slave devices bond with the master device by a wireless communication medium chosen from the group consisting of Bluetooth, wireless local area network (WLAN), radio frequency identification (RFID) and wireless telecom network.

66.   The system of Claim 52, wherein the one or more slave devices communicate the sharing information parameters to the master device.

67.   The system of Claim 55, wherein the one or more slave devices communicate the sharing information parameters to the master device, which in turn communicates the sharing information parameters to the intermediary device.

68.   The system of Claim 34, wherein instructions for communicating the collection of media files to one or more devices include instructions for communicating the collection of media files based on sharing information parameters received from the one or more slave devices or from the master device.

Evidence Appendix

No additional evidence is provided.

Related Proceedings Appendix

There are no related proceedings.